

January 29, 2015

Senator Kathy Campbell, Chair
Health and Human Services Committee
P.O. Box 94604
Lincoln, NE 68509-4604

RE: LB 46

Dear Senator Campbell and members of the Health and Human Services Committee:

The division of Public Health within the Department of Health and Human Services administers the Statewide Trauma System Act. Under the Act, our role involves planning, implementing and regulating the trauma system which includes rehabilitation centers.

Trauma System

The goal of a statewide trauma system is to make the delivery of care cost effective, reduce the incidence of inappropriate or inadequate trauma care and prevent unnecessary suffering and reduce the personal and societal burden resulting from trauma. One of the vital components of this system is the rehabilitation of the trauma patient.

Historical Information

Since the adoption of the *2002 Trauma System Regulations* and the amended *Trauma System Regulations adopted in 2011*, the trauma program has focused on developing its system infrastructure that has resulted in the designation of 48 hospitals, the implementation of four 10-member regional boards, an 18-member statewide board and the implementation of a statewide trauma registry. The program also provides trauma education reimbursement for physicians, nurses and mid-level practitioners.

Trauma Patient Rehabilitation

In 2009 it became clear that the rehabilitation chapter, adopted in 2002 needed revision as this chapter was not amended in 2011. A committee was established, comprised of representatives of rehabilitation hospital/units in the state of Nebraska. The charge to this committee was to review the rehabilitation chapter of the regulations and advise the Department on any regulatory or statutory revisions. Individuals from Bryan Health, Lincoln; Faith Regional Health Services, Norfolk; Great Plains Regional Medical Center, North Platte; Good Samaritan Hospital, Kearney; Immanuel Rehabilitation Center, Omaha; Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital, Lincoln; Mary Lanning Hospital, Hastings; Regional West Medical Center, Scottsbluff; and Saint Francis Medical Center, Grand

Island, participated in this committee. This bill reflects the recommendations of this committee. The amendments to the Statewide Trauma System Act updates rehabilitation center statutory requirements for designation consistent with established accrediting agencies. This bill allows accreditation by CARF – the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities or The Joint Commission to result in designation in one of three rehabilitation levels: general; intermediate, or advanced. These changes will allow the state to designate based on CARF or Joint Commission accreditation and provide increased recognition to those facilities that provide rehabilitation for trauma patients.

I urge you to advance LB 46 to the Legislature.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joe M. Acierno", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Joseph M. Acierno, M.D., J.D.
Chief Medical Officer
Director, Division of Public Health

Cc: Senator Watermeier